

The Photo ID Bill (HF57 / SF0146)

Common-sense reform to ensure election integrity

What the New Law Would Do:

- Require Photo ID when voting or registering to vote.
- Provide provisional ballots to those who do not have a Photo ID at the time they vote (if an ID is provided within 5 days, the provisional ballot is counted).
- Provide a free Photo ID to those without the means to obtain one.



Benefits of Photo ID:

- Mitigates errors and abuse.
- Empowers individuals who do not currently have an ID by providing them with a free ID card.
- Improves voter confidence in our election system.

Relevant Facts:

- Minnesota's election system lacks integrity because election officials cannot verify the identity of a voter. Ballots are issued to anyone who can provide a name that might be on the voter roster without requiring any form of identification.
- Requiring a Photo ID to vote is supported by a supermajority of Minnesotans.
- Indiana's Photo ID law was recently upheld as constitutional by the US Supreme Court.

Dispelling Opponents Arguments:

<i>Argument</i>	<i>Truth</i>
There is no evidence of voter fraud.	Prosecutions and convictions of voter fraud are rare because our system makes it nearly impossible to ascertain the identity of fraudulent voters. Minnesota Majority has compiled evidence including thousands of instances that indicate errors or abuse. This evidence has been provided to law enforcement officials for investigation.
Requiring a photo ID would disenfranchise some voters.	There is no evidence to support this claim. Defending a system that doesn't take meaningful steps to prevent illegitimate ballots from being introduced into an election undermines the votes of legitimate voters. Only about 40,000 Minnesotans currently don't have a government-issued photo ID. The Voter ID bill provides free state-issued identification cards to these individuals. Andrew Young, former Atlanta mayor and U.N. ambassador says "requiring ID can help poor people" who otherwise might be even more marginalized by not having one. Indiana recently enacted a voter ID requirement and enjoyed record-breaking voter participation in the 2008 election.

Identity + Eligibility = ELECTION INTEGRITY

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